

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Statement from National Coalition on Benefits on Shadegg's ERISA Proposal**

"The National Coalition on Benefits today expressed strong opposition to Rep. Shadegg's proposal, one that would crumble the health care coverage that 177 million Americans have today. The proposal threatens to erode the flexibility of ERISA – the cornerstone of employer-based coverage – resulting in a more costly, more litigious health care system that will drive employers away from voluntarily providing benefits, eating away at the coverage that most Americans enjoy today.

"In addition, the proposal would allow plaintiffs to sue employers in state courts for unlimited compensatory and punitive damages for suspected failure to provide medical services. ERISA, as a federally regulated program, provides a federal remedy structure for patients to pursue complaints against employers and their health plans when these services are unfairly denied.

"Employers rely on ERISA to provide strong and uniform benefits to employees across the country and oppose any attempts to erode the law," said Martin G. Reiser, Chairman of the National Coalition on Benefits and Manager of Government Policy for Xerox Corporation.

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***National Coalition on Benefits** ([www.coalitiononbenefits.org](http://www.coalitiononbenefits.org)) is a coalition of associations and businesses of all sizes, sectors and regions formed to represent more than 170 million Americans who have health, retirement and other valuable benefits voluntarily provided by their employer under a nationally uniform framework.*